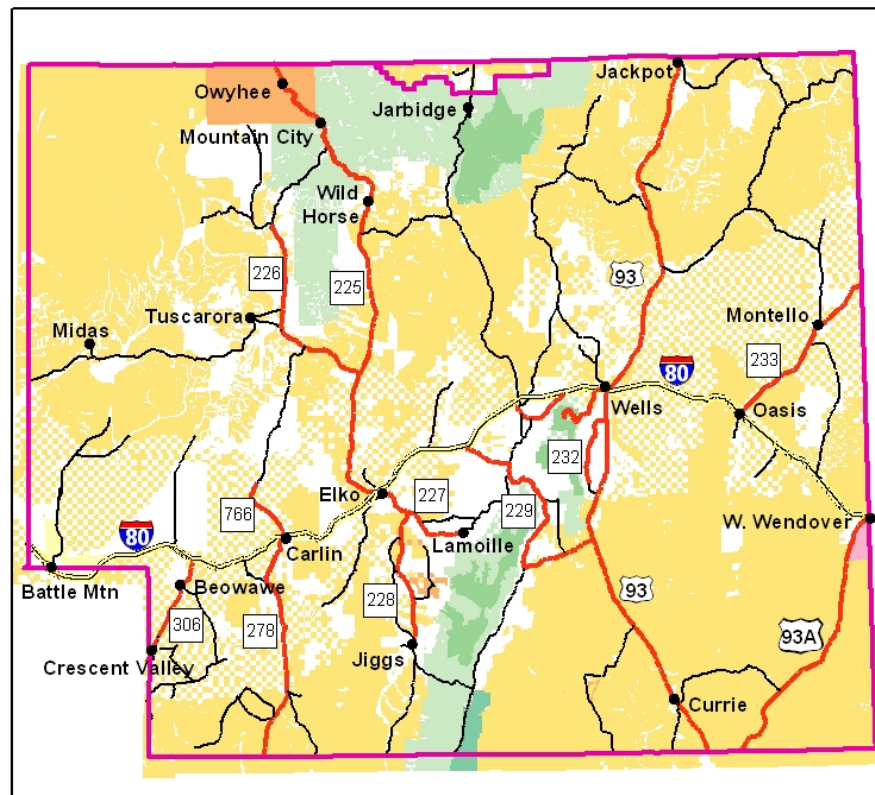


# Project and Planning Schedule



January 2006

Elko Field Office/Nevada



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/EK/GI-06/101+1790



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office  
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Elko, Nevada 89801  
775-753-0200

<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:  
1790 (NV-010)

January 31, 2006

Dear Reader:

This *Project and Planning Schedule* is provided as a source of information on the status of environmental reviews and evaluations at the Elko Field Office. It updates the report from July 2005. Proposed actions for which analyses are being completed are listed in this *Schedule* by resource program area, i.e., Land Use Planning, Minerals, Lands, Recreation/Wilderness, Fire Management, Range and Wildlife/Riparian Habitat, Wild Horse Management, Invasive, Non-Native Species. We hope that this information will increase your awareness of BLM activities and your opportunities to discuss these activities with us as they are planned.

In an effort to reduce unnecessary mailings, this document is available for viewing on the web at: [www.nv.blm.gov/Elko](http://www.nv.blm.gov/Elko). BLM is currently experiencing problems with our site. If you wish to receive a copy, or to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call Lorrie West at 775-753-0266, or send her an e-mail [lorrie\\_west@nv.blm.gov](mailto:lorrie_west@nv.blm.gov). You may also obtain copies by writing or visiting the Elko Field Office (see letterhead for address).

*If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process, you may do so by calling the contact listed for a given action. If your interest is for the management of livestock grazing, your request should be in writing and include:*

- 1) The specific allotment you are interested in by name; and
- 2) The specific type(s) of grazing management actions you are interested in for each allotment.

Thank you for your interest in our public lands.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Pacioretty  
Associate Field Manager

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#### **Terms and Acronyms**

The following definitions may be useful to you as you read about plans and projects and their status, as listed within various sections of this *Schedule*.

**Allotment Evaluations:** The Elko Field Office completes assessments of grazing allotments to determine if standards and guidelines for rangeland health, established pursuant to grazing regulations, are being met. If not, changes in grazing management and range improvement projects are considered by allotment evaluations that are subject to public review.

**Categorical Exclusion (CX):** A category of actions that have not been found to individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required to be prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Decision Record (DR):** BLM's decision document that typically is associated with an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**DNA (Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy Review):** The DNA process replaced BLM's Administrative Determination (AD) in 1999. DNAs are prepared to assist the resource specialist in determining conformance with the appropriate land use plan, and assess whether existing NEPA documents adequately cover new proposals. Reliance on an existing NEPA document is appropriate when: (1) a currently proposed action was previously proposed and analyzed, or is a part of an earlier proposal that was analyzed; (2) resource conditions and circumstances have not changed, and (3) there is no suggestion of a significant new and appropriate alternative. If the DNA concludes that these conditions exist, a new or supplemental environmental analysis (EA or EIS) is not necessary and a decision may be issued.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** Under NEPA, an EA is used to determine whether or not a proposed action would result in significant impact(s) to the human environment. If not, preparation of an EIS is not required. An EA also serves as a vehicle for interdisciplinary review of a proposed action and identification of measures to mitigate impacts. EAs are sometimes prepared to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed statement that NEPA requires for major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. **DEIS** refers to a draft EIS, and **FEIS** refers to a final EIS.

**FLPMA:** Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711).

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** A FONSI is a document prepared by a Federal agency based on review of an EA that briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS will, therefore, not be prepared.

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**Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and RMP Amendments:** Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA and regulations at 43 CFR 1600 establish BLM land use planning requirements. Approved land use plans are the basis for every on-the-ground action BLM undertakes. RMPs establish goals and objectives for resource management, measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for using public lands under BLM jurisdiction. The 1987 Elko RMP and 1985 Wells RMP guide management of lands administered by the Elko Field Office. A plan amendment serves to address issues or proposals not considered by an existing RMP.

**Multiple Use Decision (MUD):** In Nevada, an Allotment Evaluation serve as the basis for issuing a MUD. MUDs are based on the attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. Following completion of an Allotment Evaluation, a Proposed MUD (PMUD) is distributed to interested parties, typically with an EA and FONSI , before a Final MUD (FMUD) is issued.

**NEPA:** The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment.

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** A Notice of Intent (to prepare an EIS) is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication of a NOI notifies the public of proposed federal action(s) and usually initiates public scoping (issue identification) for preparation of the EIS.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The decision document associated with an EIS

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**A. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Status:** Two Resource Management Plans (RMPs) cover the area administered by the Elko Field Office, the 1987 Elko RMP and the 1985 Wells RMPs. Both plans were most recently amended for fire management; the approved amendment was signed on September 29, 2004. There are no amendments that have been initiated in 2005. A consolidation and revision of the plans, which will include preparation of an EIS, is scheduled to begin in 2009.

**Contact:** Lorrie West

**B. MINERALS**

**B1. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales**

**Type of Action:** Oil & Gas Competitive Lease Sale

**Location:** Elko District

**Description:** Competitive oil and gas lease sales are conducted quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The proposed parcels to be leased can be found on the Nevada BLM web site ([www.nv.blm.gov](http://www.nv.blm.gov)) 45 days prior to the sale date. The Elko District may or may not have proposed parcels available for leasing on each quarterly sale. Leasing parcels is the initial step in the search for oil and gas. Subsequent actions to leasing parcels are exploration, development, production of oil and gas, and eventual abandonment plugging of wells and reclamation of the site. These subsequent actions create surface disturbance, which is analyzed when a lessee submits plans for the action.

**Status:** A site-specific analysis of parcels nominated for the December 2005 lease sale was completed as part of a programmatic EA in September 2005. This EA will be referred to as parcels nominated for quarterly lease sales are reviewed for NEPA Compliance in 2006.

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**B2. West Pine Valley Exploration Plan**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral Exploration Plan of Operations

**Location:** T. 26 N., R. 48 E.

**Description:** This is a locatable mineral exploration project for which a Plan of Operations was submitted by Cortez Gold Mines. The proposed exploration activities would consist of construction of access roads, access to drill sites via two-track trails and overland routes, construction of drill pads and sumps, and drilling exploration evaluation holes. Disturbance would only occur on land necessary for exploration activities (i.e., exploration roads, drill pads, and sumps). This project area encompasses 32,200 acres of which approximately 100 acres is private and the remainder is BLM-administered public lands. Approximately 150 acres of surface disturbance would occur scattered across the 32,200-acre claim block.

**Status:** EA being prepared by a contractor.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**BLM-Elko Field Office**  
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**B3. Emigrant Mine Project EIS**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral exploration Plan of Operation

**Location:** About ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada.

T. 32 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 24, 26, 34, 36

T. 31 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12

**Description:** The Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Emigrant Mine. The proposed gold mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing mined out areas of the pit with oxide waste; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; temporarily rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9 years. Approximately 1,172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

**Status:** Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published in the Federal Register on 5/25/2004. Open house held 6/16/2004, and the public scoping period closed 7/7/2004. BLM is guiding preparation of the EIS by a contractor. The Notice of Availability for the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on 3/25/2005, and the public comment period closed May 24, 2005. The schedule for completion of the EIS has been delayed until fall 2006. It's completion is dependent on studies to help determine potential water quality impacts.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**B4. Maverick Springs Exploration Project**

**Type of Action:** Minerals Exploration

**Location:** Elko & Ely District

T. 26 N., R. 59 E., sections 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16

**Description:** Vista Nevada Corporation has conducted exploration under a Notice at their Maverick Springs property for 3 years (2002 through 2004). Their work has progressed to the point that they need to work under a Plan of Operations because their exploration activities have expanded to the point that future work will exceed the 5 acre limit of a Notice. Vista is proposing a 25-hole drilling program using a track mounted reverse circulation drill rig. No grading or dirt work will be required; disturbance will be caused by cross country travel. Disturbance for access roads will average approximately 12 to 14 feet wide. Each drill site will require an area approximately 30 feet wide by 40 feet long. Between 2002 and 2004 Vista disturbed 4.79 acres. 2.81 acres are proposed to be disturbed in 2006 resulting in a proposed total disturbance 7.60 acres.

**Status:** EA released for public review on January 20, 2006.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

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**C. LANDS**

**C1. 2006 Baca Land Sale**

**Type of Action:** Land disposal

**Location:** Elko and Eureka counties

**Description:** Ten parcels of public land in Elko County, and one parcel in Eureka County, are under consideration for a sale in 2005: The parcels are generally surrounded by private lands, and were designated for disposal by the 1985 Wells or 1987 Elko RMPs. The general areas, number of parcels, and aggregate acreage in each area are:

- a) West Wendover –one parcel of about 320 acres.
- b) Montello, six parcels of about 3,560 acres.
- c) Boulder Creek - 2 parcels of about 120 acres; and
- d) Dunphy - only Eureka County parcel, almost 80 acres
- e) Jackpot – 1 parcel of about 80 acres;

**Status:** EA nearing completion. Sale expected to be held in spring 2006.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C2. Clover Valley Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** Elko County, Clover Valley/Angel Creek Campground area

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Cancelled

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C3. Rock Creek Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** Rock Creek, northwest of Midas, NV

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Preliminary stage

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C4. IL Ranch Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** North of Tuscarora, Nevada

**Description:** Pursuing acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands from the private landowner under the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

**Status:** Cancelled

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C5. Lowell Access**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (N-77541)

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**Location:** T. 40 N., R.64 E., Section 22, Lots 10, 11

**Description:** 2,792 ft. long, 30 ft. wide private access road. Surface disturbance would occur.

**Status:** EA expected to be completed and grant offered in February 2006.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C6. City of Elko Landfill Expansion**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes lease (N-78388)

**Location:** T 34 N, R 56 E, section 18, (Elko County, Nevada)

**Description:** Landfill expansion

**Status:** On Hold.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C7. Legarza Road Amendment**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (road and water diversion)

**Location:** Spring Creek

**Description:** Access road and water diversion

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C8. Tuscarora Buried Telephone Cable**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (N-33412)

**Location:** West of Tuscarora

**Description:** Authorize existing buried telephone cables

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C9. Wells Rural Electric ROW**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way ((Nev-004430)

**Location:** Emigrant Summit

**Description:** Amend power line right-of-way

**Status:** Pending

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C10. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease (N-78530)

**Location:** Ryndon

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6 (8.90 acres)

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use 8.9 acres of public land for development of recreational facilities. Development may include baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, a children's park, outdoor picnic area and other outdoor uses.

**Status:** EA being prepared

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C11. Elko County/Ryndon Community Fire Station**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease (N-78529)

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**Location:** Ryndon, Nevada

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use about 1 acre of public land for a Nevada Division of Forestry fire station, to provide fire protection for the Ryndon RV Park.

**Status:** EA being prepared

**Contact:** Marvin Urban

**C12. Randy Croasmun Access Road and Water Line**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (N-78486 & N-078485)

**Location:** T. 34 N., R. 69 E., sections 6 and 7

**Description:** BLM has received an application for use of public land for a one-mile long access road and water line to private property.

**Status:** EA completed January 2006

**Contact:** Cathie Jensen

**C13: Davis, Ken & Joyce Access Road**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-Way ((N80994)

**Location:** T 39 N., R. 63 E., Section 14;

**Description:** Access road from public road onto private property. 60 ft wide by 200 ft long.

**Status:** Preliminary evaluation

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C14. CA Institute of Technology Geodetic Monitoring Station**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-Way (N80929)

**Location:** T. 31 N., R. 63 E., Section 21

**Description:** Installation of geodetic monitoring station.

**Status:** Reviewing application

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

**C15. Beehive Telephone Co Inc, NV**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-Way (N79715)

**Location:** Various – Elko County, Nevada

**Description:** Fiber Optics Facilities

**Status:** EA to be prepared.

**Contact:** Darci Beaupeurt

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**D. RECREATION AND WILDERNESS**

**D1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan**

**Type of Action:** Wilderness Study Area - restoration

**Location:** Bluebell WSA, Rock Spring

**Description:** The proposal is to modify a spring development for long-term use within the WSA while also restoring vegetation to the area. Issues involved are wild horses, historic and cultural, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife.

**Status:** Plan design and analysis is continuing in 2006.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D2. Regional EA for Permitting Competitive Recreational Vehicle Events**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (motorcycle, OHV, mountain bike race events)

**Location:** Elko District lands south of Interstate 80 and east of Highway 93 (southeast of Wells)

**Description:** Analysis for competitive motorcycle, off highway vehicle and mountain bike race events that occur on previously used race routes.

**Status:** Staff time and funding dependant project.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D3. Programmatic EA for Commercial Outfitting and Guiding Permits**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permits (outfitting and guiding)

**Location:** District-wide

**Description:** Programmatic analysis for commercial special use recreation permits for outfitting and guiding on public lands administered by the Elko Field Office.

**Status:** Staff time and funding dependant project.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D4. Utah Desert Foxes Off Road Motorcycle Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** South of Wendover, NV

**Description:** A single day motorcycle race event held in the summer that historically occurs on previously used race routes.

**Status:** Event is not proposed to take place in 2005.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D5. Bonneville Off Road Racing Enthusiasts (B.O.R.E.) Jackpot 100 Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit

**Location:** East and north of Jackpot, NV and extending into Idaho

**Description:** A 100-mile competitive buggy race for all types of off highway vehicles (race buggies, modified Volkswagens, Jeeps, pickups, and 4x4 vehicles). This annual



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race is normally held on the weekend closest to July 4<sup>th</sup>, and follows previously used race routes in Nevada and Idaho.

**Status:** EA and permit is administered by the Idaho BLM, Burley Field Office.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D6. B.O.R.E. 2006 Wendover Race**

**Type of Action:** Special Recreation Permit (SRP-NV-015-06-02)

**Location:** South of Wendover, along east side of the Goshute and Toano Mtn. Ranges.

**Description** – George Cain of Bonneville Offroad Racing Enthusiasts proposes an OHV race in May and September of 2006. Participants, approximately 25 vehicles, drive modified buggys or trucks on a designated route completing 4 laps totaling 240 miles. The race begins at the Red Garter Inn of Wendover, UT and ends at a previously used staging area off of Alt. Hwy. 93.

Previously B.O.R.E. had a 5 year permit to run races on the same routes for the next five years, expiring in 2009. This year BORE proposes routes that have not been previously raced on. The new routes are existing 2-tracks.

**Status:** EA underway

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D7. Hamilton/Bullion Recreation Trails**

**Type of Action:** Designation/development of touring routes and mountain bike trails.

**Location:** South of Elko to South Fork State Park, NV.

**Description:** Project initiated through the Elko Conventions and Visitors Authority (ECVA). Proposal is for designation and development of an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail and Mountain Bike routes. The route would be for licensed vehicles only on established BLM and county roads.

**Status:** Preliminary evaluation of proposal, to identify road ownership and easements. Timeframe for analysis and decision not estimated at this time.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**D8. California Trails Interpretive Waysides**

**Type of Action:** Interpretive site developments

**Location:** Many locations in northeastern Nevada

**Description:** This is related to development of the California National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, which is currently being constructed near Elko, Nevada. In accordance with an interpretive plan for the historic trails in settling the west, the development of approximately 20 wayside sites associated with its use as emigrants traveled through Nevada is currently proposed. Proposed sites have been chosen in coordination with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer. Development of each site would include parking areas and interpretive signs, and some sites also include trails. Future development is subject to the availability of funds. Some sites would require agreements with funding partners and/or private landowners.

**Status:** An EA is scheduled for completion in 2006

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

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**E. FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**E1. Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (BAER) Plans**

**Type of Action:** Fire Emergency Stabilization and Restoration projects

**Location:** Wherever wildlife occurs on Elko District lands

**Description:** Plans for the emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation of burned areas are prepared under a tight time frame following a wildfire in accordance with national fire plan procedures. Plans tier to the “Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan” EA, which was prepared in 2000, to propose specific treatments for a burned area. Proposed treatments may include seeding, fencing, dozer line rehabilitation, monitoring, road repair, horse gathers, cultural surveys, noxious weed control, tree and shrub planting, and erosion and sediment control structures.

**Status:** Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans have been completed for the following 2005 wildfires: Beowawe, Carlin, Chance, Contact, Crispix, Dunphy, Esmeralda, Gold Quarry, Hamilton Stage, Hastings, Mint, Newmont, Omega, Oyster, Scapegoat, Sherman, VOR-McCarty, and Wilson.

**Contact:** Tom Warren

**E2. Mendive Fuel Break**

**Type of Action:** Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuels Reduction

**Location:** Along Mountain City Highway (SR 225)

T. 35 N., R. 54 E., Section 34

**Description:** A hazardous fuels reduction project is proposed in cooperation with Nevada Division of Forestry on public lands along Mountain City Highway (SR 225) to prevent or reduce the potential for large scale burns within mature sagebrush adjacent to a private residential area. The private landowner adjacent to the public lands would complete the work. Treatment would consist of using a pipe harrow or similar device to reduce fuels on approximately 15 acres of public lands.

**Status:** Planning underway for implementation in 2006.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

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**F. ALLOTMENT EVALUATIONS AND MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS**

*Allotment Evaluations are completed and Multiple Use Decisions are issued based on allotment-specific assessments of actions needed to achieve standards and guidelines for rangeland health in northeastern Nevada and field office priorities. The following evaluations are underway:*

<b>Allotment Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>F1. Rock Creek Complex</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Spanish Ranch Squaw Valley	Evaluation issued in 1996, PMUD in October 2003, and the FMUD on June 30, 2004. The FMUD was appealed. In September 2004, the administrative law judge granted a stay of the decision and scheduled a hearing. The hearing was completed in March-April 2005. Post-hearing briefs have been submitted to the judge and we are awaiting his decision.	Carol Evans Donna Jewell
<b>F2. 25 Allotment</b> (AMP revision)	An Allotment Management Plan (AMP) was written for the 25 Allotment in 1971 and revised in 1978. Proposals for new fences, fire prevention, seedings, and wildlife habitat improvement projects need to be considered through the AMP revision process. Based on workloads associated with permit renewals, this AMP revision has been put on hold until 2007 or 2008. The revision will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. The work to fully process the permit renewal will be scheduled between FY07 and FY09.	Donna Jewell
<b>F3. Hubbard Vineyard</b>	Evaluation issued in 1997. Additional data was collected 2005. Further analysis of the data is planned in FY06 as well as the NEPA analysis. The proposed multiple use decision is to be issued the latter part of 2006.	Jeff Moore
<b>F4. Cottonwood Allotment</b> <b>Re-evaluation</b>	Evaluation was issued in July 2003. PMUD and EA are now scheduled to be issued in February 2006.	Jeff Moore
<b>F5. Frost Creek Allotment</b> <b>Re-evaluation</b>	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. The FMUD is now planned to be issued in conjunction with fully processing renewal of the grazing permit for this allotment. The work to fully process the permit renewal will be scheduled between FY07 and FY09.	Justin Rodgers

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<b>Allotment Evaluation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>F6. Marys River Complex</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Deeth .....Pole Creek Antelope Basin Anderson Creek Hot Creek Stormy	Evaluation issued for public comment in November 2003. Collection and analysis of additional data and consideration of management option will delay issuance of the PMUD and EA until spring/summer 2006. The FMUD is scheduled to be completed in 2006/2007, following consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.	Wendy Fuell Karl Scheetz Pat Coffin
<b>F7. Lindsay Creek Allotment</b>	Standards and guidelines assessment issued in September 2002. A proposed livestock grazing management plan will be drafted for public comment in 2005/06. These proposals will be considered during the process of renewing the grazing permit for this allotment. The work to fully process the permit renewal will be scheduled between FY07 and FY09	Justin Rodgers
<b>F8. N. Diamond Complex</b> <u>Allotments:</u> Red Rock Browne	Evaluation issued for public comment in May 1997 was followed by Livestock Use Agreements in June and interim wild horse management levels. Wildfires burned these allotments in 1999, resulting in temporary closures to grazing which delayed the collection of additional monitoring data to determine the wild horse appropriate management level and livestock active use. In 2006, the BLM intends to finalize the evaluation and issue a MUD.	Bryan Fuell

**F9. Sheep Complex, Big Springs & Owyhee Grazing Allotments Sensitive Bird Species EIS**

**Type of Action:** Multiple-use decisions (Court-ordered EIS)

**Location:** Big Springs and Sheep Complex allotments in southeast portion of Elko County, and Owyhee Allotment in northwest portion of Elko County

**Description:** The BLM is preparing this EIS to comply with an order issued by the Honorable Howard D. McKibben, U.S. District Judge, District of Nevada, on August 18, 2004 (CV-N-03-197-HDM(VPC)). The order followed a hearing on a complaint filed by Western Watershed Project and the Committee for the High Desert against three final multiple use decisions. The order is to prepare the EIS with respect to burrowing owls, raptors and sage grouse on the Sheep Complex and the Owyhee Allotment, and sage grouse on the Big Springs Allotment. BLM will evaluate the impact of livestock grazing to the extent applicable to these sensitive bird species and considering springs, seeps, riparian areas and upland habitat.

**Status:** Notice of intent to prepare the EIS and initiate scoping published 12/8/2004. Open house held at the Elko Field Office on 1/6/05, and the public comment period ended 1/21/2005. Draft EIS distributed 12/5/2005, and public comment period ended 1/25/2006. The Final EIS is scheduled for completion at the end of March 2006.

**Contact:** Lorrie West or Bryan Fuell

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**G. RANGE AND WILDLIFE/RIPARIAN HABITAT PROJECTS**

**G1. Devils Pass Spring Development and Exclosure**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (riparian habitat/fence)

**Location:** Salmon River Allotment

T. 45 N., R. 66 E.

**Description:** This project has been modified from the previously proposed “TJ Spring Exclosures” project. It consists of constructing one exclosure, of approximately 200 acres in total area, and developing one spring within the exclosure and piping water to a trough in the immediate vicinity outside of the exclosure. The BLM would construct this project and the permittee would have maintenance responsibility. The exclosure would allow for the implementation of management actions that would improve riparian condition and protect existing water sources from livestock impacts.

**Status:** Completion of EA on hold

**Contact:** Tyson Gripp

**G2. Fourmile Butte Pasture Well, Pipeline and Riparian Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (water well, pipeline, riparian protection fence)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., section 3 SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> (proposed well location)

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., Sec 10, 11, 12 (portion of proposed pipeline)

T. 43 N., R. 50 E., Sec. 6 (portion of riparian fence)

T. 44 N., R. 49 E., Sec 25, 35, 36 (portion of riparian fence; portion of pipeline)

T. 44 N., R. 50 E., Sec 31 (portion of riparian fence)

**Description:** A well would be drilled on public lands within the Lower Fourmile Pasture of the Owyhee Allotment. A storage tank, pipeline and troughs would be associated with this well to distribute the water in the pasture. Approximately 4 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to eliminate livestock grazing from the public land portion of the South Fork Owyhee River where it transects this pasture. This project was outlined in the Owyhee Final Multiple Use Decision dated April 19, 2002. The proposed project is intended to improve riparian and upland habitat along the South Fork of the Owyhee River by increasing livestock distribution in the upland areas of the pasture while excluding livestock from the river bottom.

**Status:** Initial feasibility studies completed. EA scoping input solicited in April 2005. Analysis on hold pending completion of the Sensitive Bird Species EIS for the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

**G3. Red Cow Pasture Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Spanish Ranch Allotment

T. 40 N., R. 49 E., section 1

T. 41 N., R. 50 E., sections. 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, 33

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T. 42 N., R. 50 E., sections. 19, 20, 29, 30, 32

**Description:** This project would consist of the construction of 11 miles of fence to manage livestock movement and provide scheduled rest periods for improvement of Red Cow Creek. Construction of this pasture fence is needed to allow for achievement of riparian and fisheries objectives identified in the Spanish Ranch Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) issued June 30, 2004. This area supports redband trout (*Amachrynma petin*) and sage grouse, both BLM sensitive species. In addition, Red Cow Creek is identified as a high priority stream in the Elko RMP.

**Status:** Project on hold as an appeal and stay of the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Kathy McKinstry

**G4. Black Mountain Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 35 N., R. 48 E., sections 17, 18

T. 35 N., R. 47 E., sections. 13, 18

**Description:** Approximately 3 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Black Mountain and Sheep Creek Areas. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to enhance and improve riparian conditions along Rock Creek. A grazing system will be developed and implemented as outlined in the Amended Allotment Management Plan to be developed for the 25 Allotment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory are planned for summer 2005. EA would be completed in late summer/fall 2005.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G5. Welches Spring Re-Development**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (spring re-development)

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

Sec. 4, T. 34 N., R. 50 E.

**Description:** This spring has been developed in the past. Under the proposal made by the livestock grazing permittee, the spring would be re-developed with a new headbox and trough. The source would be fenced/or protected to protect the water source, maintain available water at the source for wildlife, and enhance the riparian resources. This spring is an important water source in the Welches Seeding Pasture. Use of this pasture allows more management options in native pastures. A more reliable water source would allow better use of the seeding pasture and more deferment or earlier use in native pastures.

**Status:** Public scoping planned in spring of 2006. Design and cultural inventory could begin summer 2006.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G6. Boulder Well Pipeline**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline with several troughs)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 36 N., R. 48 E., sections 14, 15, 19, 20, 21

**Description:** A pipeline is proposed starting at the Boulder Well and extending into the Six Mile Pasture from the Boulder Field. This will help distribute livestock and provide

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water for wildlife in accordance with the 25 Allotment Management Plan. A third party easement would be required, as the pipeline crosses private property not owned by the permittee.

**Status:** Preliminary feasibility begin late fall of 2006, and public scoping for an EA initiated in winter 2007.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G7. Midas Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 38 N., R. 46 E., section 5

**Description:** Approximately 1 mile of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Frazer Creek Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA completed and fence constructed in December 2005 as part of the emergency fire stabilization for the Esmeralda Fire.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G8. Guard Corral Extension Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 37 N., R. 44 E., sections 12 and 14

**Description:** Approximately 0.9 miles of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Horseshoe Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. EA on hold as an appeal and stay on the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**G9. Winters Creek/Mahogany Fence Reconstruction**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Spanish Ranch Allotment

T. 41 N., R. 48 E. and T. 41 N., R. 49 E.

**Description:** Approximately 14 miles of 4-strand fence would be reconstructed to divide the Winters Creek, Burner Hills, and Fourmile/Red Cow Pastures. This fence is necessary to provide proper control and management of livestock to implement the grazing system outlined in the June 2004 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch Allotments.

**Status:** EA and reconstruction on hold as an appeal and stay on the FMUD is litigated.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

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**G10. East Squaw Creek Riparian Management Projects**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvements

**Location:** East Big Springs Allotment; east side of the Pequop Range, north of I-80

**Description:** Many range improvement were outlined in the 2002 Big Springs Allotment FMUD. The highest priorities for completion are:

**A. Upper Squaw Creek Riparian Pasture Fence** - Construct a fence along about 1.5 miles of the middle fork of East Squaw Creek to create the Upper Squaw Creek Riparian Pasture, extending upstream (east) from the existing East Squaw Creek Field Fence. This would require at least 3 miles of fencing, and cattleguards would also be installed where necessary. The new pasture would be rested from grazing by livestock until the stream has achieved proper functioning condition. Once achieved, the permittee would meet with BLM each year to plan any grazing of the pasture.

**B. East Squaw Creek Field Fence** - Modify the existing fence around the Squaw Creek Ranch to BLM standards. Two options are being considered: (1) Reconstruct approximately 7 miles of existing fence around the Squaw Creek Ranch to BLM standards and install cattle guards where necessary; or (2) Remove portions of this existing fence and construct shorter sections of new fence, which would reduce the size of this field.

**C. Big Springs Division Fence** - To prevent livestock drift, construct about 3.5 miles of boundary fence between the East and West Big Springs Allotments within the North Pequop Mountain Pasture. The fence would run from Interstate 80 at Pequop Summit north to Rocky Point. A short gap fence in the canyon immediately north of Rocky Point would also be constructed.

**Status:** Public scoping conducted April-May 2005. Further consideration of these projects is deferred pending completion of the Sensitive Bird Species EIS for the Sheep Complex, Big Springs and Owyhee Grazing Allotments.

**Contact:** Jeff Moore

**G11. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Willow Creek Pockets Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 57 E. section 18 NE¼

**Description:** Reconstruct and extend the Forest Pipeline in the Upper Field of the Willow Creek Pockets Allotment. The pipeline originates on private land, and the landowner would reconstruct the private land portion from the water source (Forest Spring) to the public land boundary (less than ¼ mile). The BLM, in cooperation with private landowner, would reconstruct and extend the portion that is on public land (approximately 3.5 miles).

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

**G12. Sorensen Pipeline Project**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement

**Location:** Spruce Allotment



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**Description:** The permittee for the Spruce Allotment currently hauls water for livestock. They are proposing to install approximately 90 miles of pipeline to provide water and improve livestock distribution in the upland areas of the allotment.

**Status:** Proposal returned to proponent for re-submittal with a preliminary EA. Public scoping expected to be initiated in winter 2006.

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson

**G13. Willow Tree Spring Exclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Deeth Allotment;

T. 38 N., R. 59 E., section 5

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing an exclosure (approximately 1 mile of fence) and developing a spring. The spring development would include a pipeline and troughs to supply water to the middle section of the Steer Field in the Deeth Allotment. Developing this spring would not only protect the existing riparian area, but would also provide water to improve livestock distribution in this field.

**Status:** This project is in the early discussion phase to determine feasibility, location of the project on the ground and water rights issues.

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

**G14. Wagon Springs Aspen Exclosure and Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** A spring would be developed and protected with construction of a combination of wood and rail fence exclosure. The development would consist of 2 water troughs.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G15. T Lazy S Sage Grouse Habitat Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** T Lazy S Allotment

**Description:** Mechanical or chemical manipulation of about 200 acres of Newmont mitigation lands within the T Lazy S Allotment to improve sage grouse habitat, as identified in the EIS for the South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**G16. Stampede Ranch Wildlife Fence Modifications**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (fencing)

**Location:** Maggie Creek Allotment

**Description:** Removing and replacing a mesh-wire fence with a three strand wire to reduce wildlife endangerment problems, as identified in the EIS for the Newmont Mining Corporation South Operations Area Plan Amendment.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design – on hold in 2005

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

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**G17. Barrick 15 Spring Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment and other areas

**Description:** Restore up to 15 spring riparian sites, by constructing a fence enclosure or other means as deemed appropriate. Restoration is identified as part of the Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. mitigation commitments in the 2003 Betze Project Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design

**Contact:** Nycole Burton and Carol Evans

**G18. Springsnail Relocation Study**

**Type of Action:** Research

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment and other existing/potential springsnail habitats

**Description:** Desert Research Institute, in cooperation with the BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc., plans to evaluate the feasibility of relocating springsnails from springs potentially impacted by mine dewatering. This study is related to analyses from the 2003 Betze Project Supplemental EIS Mitigation Plan.

**Status:** Study initiated in summer 2005

**Contact:** Nycole Burton and Carol Evans

**G19. Devil's Gate Riparian Enhancement Projects (North Fork Humboldt River)**

**Type of Action:** Stream and Riparian Habitat Improvement

**Location:** Devil's Gate Allotment

T. 39 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

T. 40 N., R. 57 E. and 58 E.

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing water developments and approximately 8 miles of fence, for the purpose of restoring and protecting up to 8 miles of the North Fork of the Humboldt River as well as spring habitat within the Devil's Gate Allotment. The fencing would limit timing and intensity of livestock grazing on the River. Water developments, in the form of spring developments, pipelines and a stock pond are proposed to provide alternate sources of water for livestock.

**Status:** EA completed in November 2005. Final design in progress. Construction tentatively scheduled for 2006 or fall 2007.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G20. Trout Unlimited Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Watershed Studies**

**Type of Action:** Research

**Location:** Maggie and Willow Creek basins, northern Elko County

**Description:** Two cooperative fisheries research studies are underway in the Maggie and Willow Creek basins. as part of a cooperative project involving the Elko Field Office, Trout Unlimited, Newmont Mining Company, and Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. Both the Maggie and Willow Creek drainages support Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federally listed species. Genetics, population dynamics, movement patterns and habitat quality will be evaluated as part of the research program.

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**Status:** Baseline data has been collected and additional research is planned over the next three to five years, depending on funding.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G21. Emigrant Spring Fencing Project**

**Type of Action:** Riparian habitat fencing

**Location:** Drainage west of Emigrant Springs in the vicinity of the proposed Emigrant Mine

T 32N, R53E, - Section 28 NE, Section 27 SWNW, and Section 27 NESE.

**Description:** Fencing is proposed for three springs for the purpose of improving riparian habitat conditions. Potential for development of a trough and pipeline system for livestock water will be evaluated as part of the proposal.

**Status:** Project on hold pending completion of the Emigrant Mine EIS.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G22. Dixie Creek Fish Barrier**

**Type of Action:** Habitat/Fisheries Restoration

**Location:** River Allotment, Lower Dixie Creek

**Description:** Construct a barrier on privately-owned land in the lower reaches of Dixie Creek to prevent non-native salmonids from the South Fork of the Humboldt River from accessing the native Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) population in the upper reaches of Dixie Creek. LCT are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

**Status:** Survey and design in progress. Construction tentatively planned for fall of 2007.

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**G23. Linka-Modarelli Aspen Protection Fences**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** South Buckhorn Allotment

**Description:** Metal pipe fence would be used to protect up to five degraded aspen stands on the Linka Creek drainage and the Modarelli Mine area.

**Status:** Planning completed. Fences will be installed in 2006.

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

**G24. Lee Canyon Cottonwood Protection Fence**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Pine Mountain Allotment

**Description:** Metal pipe fence would be used to protect the lower portion of a degraded narrowleaf cottonwood stand on the Lee Canyon drainage in the Pinon Range.

**Status:** Planning completed. Fences will be installed in 2006.

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

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**H. WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT**

**H1. Deer Spring Enclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Spruce Allotment/Antelope Valley Wild Horse Herd Management Area  
T. 29 N., R. 65 E., section 25

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing a small enclosure around an existing spring development and installing a pipeline to take the water approximately 450 feet to a trough. The spring source would be protected while providing reliable water for wild horses, wildlife and livestock. This proposed project was outlined in the Spruce/Valley Mountain FMUD, approved in January 1998, as well as in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, approved August 1992.

**Status:** Consideration of this project deferred.

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

**I. INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES**

**I1. Dry Gulch Seeding**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Maggie Creek/Suzie Creek drainages

**Description:** Drill seeding of desired grasses to compete against cheatgrass invasion and Scotch thistle infestation within the Maggie Creek Weed Treatment project.

**Status:** EA underway for project implementation in fall 2006.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I2. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Tabor Creek Campground

**Description:** Herbicide and biological treatment of Canada thistle infestation throughout the Tabor Creek Campground.

**Status:** EA underway for treatment in summer 2006.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**I3. Domestic Goat Trials Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Maggie Creek drainage and Lower Mitchell Creek drainage

**Description:** Biological treatment of Scotch thistle, leafy spurge infestation using domestic goats as a treatment regime.

**Status:** Preliminary planning, for treatment in summer 2006.

**Contact:** Mark Coca